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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/801,904	03/16/2004	Kouhei Ushida	2418.68US01	3380

7590 10/02/2006

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EXAMINER

LE, HUNG CHARLIE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3663

DATE MAILED: 10/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/801,904	Applicant(s) USHIDA, KOUHEI	
	Examiner Hung C. Le	Art Unit 3663	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10 - 17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>08/09/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I (Claims 1 – 9) in the reply filed on 07/21/2006 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 10 – 17 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Group, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 07/21/2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before

November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

4. Claims 1 – 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ushida (US 6,907,764 B2).

With respect to claim 1: Ushida (Abstract, Figs. 1 – 4B, Claims) discloses: A method for manufacturing an article (21) having a thickened peripheral portion (23), comprising: reverse squeezing an initial peripheral portion of an initial article (10) to form a first intermediate article (20) having a first intermediate peripheral portion that is partly thinned, and squeezing the first intermediate peripheral portion of the first intermediate article (20) to form a second intermediate article (21) having a second intermediate peripheral portion (23) that is thickened throughout.

With respect to claim 2: Ushida (Abstract, Figs. 1 – 4B, Claims) further discloses: wherein the reverse squeezing step comprises: vertically compressing the initial peripheral portion of the initial article (10) to thereby form an inclined surface in the first intermediate peripheral portion.

With respect to claim 3: Ushida (Abstract, Figs. 1 – 4B, Claims) further discloses: wherein the squeezing step comprises: laterally compressing the first intermediate peripheral portion of the first intermediate article (10) to thereby cause the inclined

surface to transform into a vertical and horizontal surfaces as a result of plastic flow caused by plastic deformation.

With respect to claim 4: Ushida (Abstract, Figs. 1 – 4B, Claims) further discloses: press forming a sheet material to thereby form the initial article (10).

With respect to claim 5: Ushida (Abstract, Figs. 1 – 4B, Claims) further discloses: finishing the second peripheral portion of the second intermediate article (20).

With respect to claim 6: Ushida (Abstract, Figs. 1 – 4B, Claims) further discloses: restriking the second intermediate peripheral portion of the second intermediate article (20).

With respect to claim 7: Ushida (Abstract, Figs. 1 – 4B, Claims) further discloses: wherein the reverse squeezing step comprises: seating the initial peripheral portion on a lower die (38) of a reverse squeezing device, and extending a reverse squeezing member (30) of the reverse squeezing device (1) toward the lower die so as to compress the initial peripheral portion.

With respect to claim 8: Ushida (Abstract, Figs. 1 – 4B, Claims) further discloses: wherein the squeezing step further comprises: clamping the first intermediate peripheral portion of the first intermediate article (20) between upper and lower

restraint dies (42 & 52) of a squeezing device (2), such that at least a portion of the first intermediate peripheral portion extends outwardly therefrom, and pushing the upper and lower restraint dies into a squeezing member (40) of the squeezing device together with the first intermediate article (20) clamped therebetween so as to compress the first intermediate peripheral portion.

With respect to claim 9: Ushida (Abstract, Figs. 1 – 4B, Claims) further discloses:

A method for manufacturing an article having a thickened peripheral portion, comprising: seating an initial peripheral portion of an initial article (10) on a lower die 38) of a reverse squeezing device (1), extending a reverse squeezing member (30) of the reverse squeezing device toward the lower die so as to compress the initial peripheral portion, thereby forming a first intermediate article (20) having a first intermediate peripheral portion that is partly thinned, clamping the first intermediate peripheral portion of the first intermediate article (20) between upper and lower restraint dies (42 & 52) of a squeezing device (2), such that at least a portion of the first intermediate peripheral portion extends outwardly therefrom, and pushing the upper and lower restraint dies into a squeezing member (40) of the squeezing device together with the first intermediate article (20) clamped therebetween so as to compress the first intermediate peripheral portion, thereby forming a second intermediate article (21) having a second intermediate peripheral portion that is thickened throughout.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung C. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-8757. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 07:30am - 05:00 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack W. Keith can be reached on 571-272-6878. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HCL
09/27/06


JACK KEITH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER